

4 is listed but the text is omitted according to part II A (4) of the Revised Amendment Practice – 37 CFR 1.121. Applicant's attorney would appreciate a more explicit description of the alleged deficiency relevant to box B.

Referring now to Box C, requiring status identifiers for all the claims, again, it is clear from the copy of the amendment enclosed herein that all the status identifiers are present for all the claims.

Box D requires that the claims be presented in ascending numerical order, and that is the way they were presented in the 2 sheets attached to the amendment. Again, applicant's attorney would appreciate an explicit explanation of the alleged deficiency.

Possibly, the two original appended sheets somehow were not included in applicants' mailing, or possibly they were accidentally separated in the PTO. Accordingly, in addition to including herein a complete copy of the papers in applicants' attorney's file representing what was sent to the PTO on August 21, 2003, a complete response pertaining to the claims amendments is offered below. The wording below is an exact replica of the response sent on August 21, 2003, relevant to the claims, except the mailing certification.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, and 15 to use a lower-case "x" instead of the upper case "X" for the word "xanthan." **These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of claims.**

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claims 3 and 16 to change the spelling of the term "nitrilipropionamide" to the corrected "nitrilopropionamide." **These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of the claims.**

1. [Currently amended] An antimicrobial composition comprising, in water, a haloacetamide, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum, and a buffer of sodium acetate and acetic acid in an amount effective to maintain a pH in the range of 1-5.
3. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo 3-nitrilipropionamide 3-nitrilopropionamide.
5. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum contains no more than 1.2% acetic acid or acetate groups by weight.

1. [Currently amended] An antimicrobial composition comprising, in water, a haloacetamide, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum, and a buffer of sodium acetate and acetic acid in an amount effective to maintain a pH in the range of 1-5.
2. [Original] A composition of claim 1 in the form of a suspension.
3. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo 3-nitrilopropionamide 3-nitrilopropionamide.
4. [Canceled]
5. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum contains no more than 1.2% acetic acid or acetate groups by weight.
6. [Original] A composition of claim 1 wherein said buffer comprises sodium acetate and acetic acid in a weight ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5:1 .
7. [Currently amended] A suspension of at least 5% by weight of a haloacetamide in water including acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum suspending agent, and a buffer comprising 1-2% sodium acetate and 0.5-1% acetic acid.
8. [Original] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide comprises 10% to 45% haloacetamide, and said buffer is present in an amount effective to maintain a pH in said suspension of 1-5.
9. [Original] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said sodium acetate and acetic acid are present in a molar ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5:1.
- 10.[Original] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 5% by weight to 60% by weight.
- 11.[Original] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 10% to 45% by weight and said buffer is effective to maintain the pH at 3.8-4.2.
- 12.[Original] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 15% to 25% by weight.
- 13.[Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight.
- 14.[Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.5% to 4% by weight.
- 15.[Currently amended] A stable antimicrobial composition comprising water, a haloacetamide in an effective antimicrobial amount, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum in an amount effective to form a suspension of said haloacetamide in said water, sodium acetate, and acetic acid, said sodium acetate and acetic acid being present in a ratio and amount effective to inhibit the degradation of said haloacetamide by hydrolysis.

- 16.[Currently amended] A composition of claim 15 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo 3-~~nitrilopropionamide~~ 3-nitrilopropionamide.
- 17.[Original] A composition of claim 16 wherein said 2,2 dibromo 3-nitrilopropionamide is present in an amount from 5% to 60% by weight.
- 18.[Original] A composition of claim 17 wherein said sodium acetate and acetic acid are present in a molar ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5.